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PROMOTING INTERPROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WITHIN THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY

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Introduction

Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") is necessary to support practice improvement within the University of Toronto Department of Radiation Oncology ("UTDRO"). The UTDRO conducts multiple successful CPD programs annually. Unclear boundaries between CPD, quality improvement, patient safety, knowledge translation and faculty development make it difficult to understand how to personalize and enhance CPD interests.

Method

Eleven UTDRO faculty members participated in semi-structured needs assessment interviews. The UTDRO conducted need assessments, of courses on technological innovations in prostate cancer radiotherapy, and obtained grants related to barriers in patient engagement,

Results

Interviewees identified potential barriers to CPD programs: time constraints, lack of incentives, lack of awareness about relevant CPD programs, and suitability of topics. Twenty-six inter-professional faculty members including radiation oncology, radiation therapy and physicist trainees attended a 2 day, Technological Innovations in Prostate Cancer radiation therapy course. Eighty percent of participants strongly agreed that the course was relevant to their practices and 90 % would incorporate the course information in their practices. The UTDRO education team was successful in obtaining a grant to investigate the barriers to patients' engagement in CPD/UTDRO planning. Collaboration and representation on various national and international organizations such as SHSC ERU, University of Toronto CPD office, CARO, AACE, EACE, ESTRO, AMEE, SACME facilitated opportunities for enhancement of CPD UTDRO offerings.

Discussion

CPD and life-long learning are core tenets of many different healthcare fields. The needs assessment helped to determine what barriers exist in accessing, understanding, and engaging of UTDRO faculty members. Greater representation from the faculty members, particularly physicists should be encouraged. Despite their busy academic and clinical practices, the UTDRO faculty members still contribute their skills and knowledge to successful CPD offerings. UTDRO aims to strengthen nationwide and international networks and collaborations related to the CPD portfolio.

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